



THE JACG NEWSLETTER

JACG

THE JERSEY ATARI COMPUTER GROUP

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Well, things are pretty much the same here in newsletter land of the JACG this month. The regulars and officers did their jobs again, Z*Net is back, and the other 90% of the club did diddly squat for the newsletter like every other month.

There are two other things I'd like to share in this space this month. First, where to get Atari info now that all the magazines but us are going down the tubes. The strongest recommendation I can make here is BUY A MODEM or if you have one, USE IT.

With a modem you can keep in touch with local Atari users on the JACG BBS. You can reach other Atari users in St. Louis, Philly, and Florida via a message networked BBS like local call Blank Page BBS. You can hook with users from everywhere, talking about everything via a service like GENIE or CompuServe. In all, a great way to stay a part of the grapevine.

The other piece of info? Well, now that Spring is REALLY here, if you like parks, check out Schooley's Mountain Park in NW Morris county. It's tucked away and not so easy to find, but I'm convinced it's the most beautiful place in NJ I've seen in my 2+ years here. It's got a small lake and small beach, a meadow, a grove, paddle boats, and a nature trail to a scenic overlook back in the woods by a bubbling stream. Ahhhh... sweet spring!

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Z * NET SECTION

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NEXT MEETING:

MAY 11th, 1991

10:00 AM TO NOON

FLEA MARKET Before Meeting

GENERAL FEATURE

PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS II

by Joe Kennedy, President, JACG

He's coming in May! Who? Kris Holtegard! One of the last Atari 8-bit programmers and one who seemingly translates machine code into BASIC to make it run faster. Kris will demo his new program DATAGRAF. It's definitely a demo worth seeing.

Why don't more people program for the Atari machines? Kris might be able to answer that question for you. Kris has sold six copies of DATAGRAF since its recent introduction. You can imagine that he was thrilled to get an order for the program from England. But wait a minute! The order form was one from the DATAGRAF documentation. When Kris talked to the person from England, he was told that the program came to him in England from Kentucky or Virginia. From Virginia to England in only a matter of weeks! Kris is seriously considering abandonment of commercial programming for the 8-bit Ataris because of this.

Can you blame him? I would suggest that if you want people like Kris to keep programming for the 8-bits then support them! It is the ONLY way that they will continue to program for the 8-bits (or for that matter the STs or any other system).

Speaking of doing things, June is only two meetings away. Have you signed up to give a demo at the June Atari Safari? When everybody gives a little bit to their computer club (pun intended), we all gain.

8 - BIT FEATURE

8 - BIT VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Dave Arlington, 8-bit VP, JACG

At least on the 8-bit side, it's nice to see one of my duties, arranging for demos at the meetings, to be as nicely falling into place as putting

the newsletter has become lately.

Just so you know I really do have some planning put into this, here is a brief outline of some of things you can expect to see over the next couple months. This month, of course, we finally saw the long-awaited Kenny Daglish Soccer demoed by Pres. Joe Kennedy and a brief trip to an Alternate Reality. Next month is the previously mentioned visit by Kris Holtegard of which unfortunately I can't take any credit for arranging. In June is the famous Atari Safari and I'll be stumping at the next two meetings looking for other 8-bitters so I won't be alone representing the elder Atari computer statesmen. In July, we hope to have Ed Salvesen giving us his Silent Service tips and one other demo. And in August will be our Family meeting with special emphasis on our younger JACG family. I hope to have prizes and games to go with some demos.

Although our own JACG greeted my previous Action! tutorial series with mostly apathy, I have lately been receiving requests from other parts of the country to possibly start it up again. It will probably come back in the next month or so for those interested in Action! programming tips. Rather than being a serialized set of lessons like last time, this time each article will be a stand alone piece on things like graphics or handling strings or writing functions so people who can't get the newsletter every month can follow along.

And lastly, a letter from the now-prolific author, Ed Salvesen:

There seems to be a mix-up regarding the sales of 8-bit disk library disks just prior to the meetings. In the March newsletter, Joe Kennedy thanked me for taking over for Bill Garmany, Jr. which was news to Bill himself!

I think, if you check further, that you'll find I apparently am replacing Dave Green or Neil V. (or

both) in the assistant role.

I'm sure there is room in the next issue for clarification, but please confirm these facts with Joe Kennedy. He's the one who tapped me on the shoulder for this and made mention at the last meeting of the mix-up. As for clarifying my position in this matter; I was given to believe that it was temporary. However, if it was meant to be more than temporary, I will accept that.

Regards,
Ed Salvesen

As I told Ed on the phone since then, there are no temporary positions in the JACG! Oh, they may start out that way, but that's just the way to get you hooked. Mike Hochman will surely verify how permanent some positions can get! But what the hey, it's always a labor of love as you'll soon find out.

8 - BIT FEATURE

8 - BIT PD LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

by Sam Cory, 8-bit PD Librarian, JACG

Today is fast approaching. To aid you, buy our DOM JACG#225 which contains our yearly offering of two Syncalc Tax Guides: one for New Jersey; and one for Federal tax forms. Thanks to the ever brilliant work of Jim Morlock who will not pay your taxes or for your mistakes. We make no claim to accuracy except for all the years Jim has done this, I do not recall one complaint. Hurry, Hurry, Hurry!

Here is a new Ken Gorden list. May 5th at Hofstra Univ. and the big combined out and indoors show May 18 at Wm Pat College - one of the best with loads of parking and items.

CONGRATULATIONS, YOU WON THE PRIZE!! You beat the latest and best computer chess program by Deep Thought. Well you did not do it, did you? I know I did not. Gary Kasparov did it for you

and me. The odds of you or me to beat that program is about 5 billion to 1. The world population, of course. NOVA covered the event of THE WORLD CHAMPION and our victory. The consensus is in 5 years the computer will be king.+*-= "So live it up while you can you miserable people. We computers are going to take over".W.~/ WOW, Mine is already rebelling!

Personal - I have floaters so the right cataract operation will be later in the summer or fall after the left eye clears up. Bob Mulhern is settling in. Has his IBM up for business reasons and heading for his ATARI. He is renting a home and may find time for a garden. Address:

1335 Beulah Park Drive
Lexington, Ky 40517
1-606-272-3777.

Another thing. If you want to send me something that is valuable please use RETURN RECEIPT. Too much has been lost in the mail recently - a bank deposit (cost me \$100 in overdrawn at \$20 a check); a package from Kris H. that contained a modem cable and a 3 disk set of DATAGRAF, and other mail.

VERY PERSONAL - Kriss Holtegaard will be at our May meeting to demo his newest program "DATAGRAF". A drop down menu business operation capable of handling near 1000 data files. This is not a PD set of 3 disks. You will pay his price. In view of what I heard 3/23/91 there will be protection. WHY when he has given so much to the ATARI World, to JACG, OL HACKERS, and etc.?

He has sent DATAGRAF to less than 6 people. He just received a letter from England with money and an order form for DATAGRAF. So what! The order form came from DATAGRAF and as he found out originated from someone in Kentucky. None of his sales or distribution has been to Kentucky. Imagine your disgust to find you have sold less than 6 copies of a very good ATARI BASIC program since Dec 1990 and already by Feb 1991 copies are moving

through the States without pay. AND YOU wonder why the 8-bit is going down the drain.

I think I will join up with the new element. I could use a new VCR, or Lincoln (with the proper color, wheel hubs, and electronic equipment), and on and on and on. So I will just walk up to your house and take yours. I know! Stealing is so easy nowadays. Did you watch PRIME TIME on ABC 3/21/91. Notice how easy it is to steal a car. No penalty. The police can not hold you. We do not want to make the justice system work UNLESS I AM HURT. Who cares for the other people. ME FIRST.

Some people have not realized the potential of SPARTA DOS. It is a DOS and as such will operate in all ATARI 8-bits. The real problem is memory. The more you have the better. Hard Drive is best. However, if you are really interested in learning what MS DOS looks like, what a full scale DOS can do for you the nearest you will ever get is SPARTA. Get to know D1:, STARTUP BATS, CONFIG FILES, TIME AND DATE STAMPS, MACROS, ETC. It will open your eyes. How would you like to set up your system by inserting and booting one disk, then sitting back and watching your computer load files to the RAM disk setting up the TIME and DATE and all the multiple items available.

Kris Holtegaard used to start his system of multiple drives and a rudimentary BBS just by booting the one disk. It took >10 minutes until everything was ready to go. Think what this saved him in time and mistakes at setting up the system. It also gave him confidence in the operating condition of his system. Ask him about this when he comes and talks with us in May. Kris at full speed was operating a Hard drive system of 120megs and several floppies to make his PRO BBS one of the best 8-bit systems in the EAST. If you will recall, in order to help us, Kris made VCR tapes covering SPARTA DOS that explained much of this.

Yes, we do have more disks to

offer. JACG#224 is the last of the SPARTA 3 set. I must warn you it is mainly HARD DRIVE. Look at the listing on the 8-bit table. PLEASE DO NOT TAKE THIS LISTING. Others would like to read it. Also find, the OL HACKERS Newsletter for JAN/FEB 1991. Our JACG#223

In spite of the above trashing, I do wish you all a wonderful SPRING. Particularly those who like me plant gardens. Do not forget our ATARI SAFARI in June 1991.

(EDITOR's NOTE: I just got a late news update from Sam in regards to Ron Riche, author of TextPro. In case you were wondering what the current state of TextPro might be, Sam wanted everyone to be aware that Ron's wife was (is?) serving in the armed forces in the Persian Gulf and Ron is too busy running the Riche household to devote much time to TP. Ron assured Sam that TP devotees should expect to see some new stuff rolling out about late June or early July.)

GENERAL FEATURE

MARCH MEETING NOTES

by Joseph E. Hicswa, JACG

March 9 was a bright, beautiful, brisk day. Between 40 and 50 visitors and members came to AT&T BELL LABS for JERSEY ATARI COMPUTER GROUP meeting.

There were 8 and 16 bit flea market bargains. I bought PRINT SHOP (new - unopened) for five bucks.

Manning the tables were:

ED SALVESEN - KEARNY
SHERI VANDENBERG - PLAINFIELD
WILLIAM CAREY - MIDDLETOWN
DOUG DIEHL - MAPLEWOOD
MIKE HOCHMAN - HOWELL

Assistant ST Librarian PETER ROTTON helped label newsletters while conducting 16-bit disk sales. MIKE HOCHMAN handed out door prize tickets

with newsletters as he signed up new and renewal members. Assistant Librarians BILL GARMANY Jr. and ED SALVESEN worked 8-bit disk sales.

Other-Club Newsletter Librarian WILLIAM SCHROTH brought two boxes of them to the meeting. This free lending library for members contains commercial and public domain reviews, hints, answers to many problems, also comments about ATARI and ATARI products. PLEASE return them when finished to be shared with other members.

President JOE KENNEDY was seen at the Free Magazine table that contained latest issues of Computer Shopper, AI, Dr. Dobbs Journal, Inside Dos, etc.

Mingling with the crowd shopping for bargains and answering questions were ST VP DAVID NOYES, ST Librarian JOHN DEAN, Treasurer JACK RUTT, BBS Exec. GARY GORSKI, and former 8-bit VP NEIL VAN OOST.

Setting up the stage for demos were JOSEPH ROBORECKY, MARK ROTTON AND MASON TAUBE. Something new was added -- a MULTISCAN VIDEO PROJECTOR to display demos on a large, overstage screen. During the demos it was like being at the movies.

Running on the regular, large, portable, screen to amuse members before the meeting was AN_COOL. PRG, a 16-bit, undulating graphics with synthesized sound. That frisky-disky is way off the ground.

Waiting on the sideline for meeting to start was VINCE AVERELLO of Passaic playing RYGAR on his ATARI LYNX.

I met some pleasant new members and guests: There was CHRIS PUZZELE from Belle Mead who learned about JACG on the BBS. Chris became a 24-bitter, ATARI ST & 800 after a friend demoed the power and potential of ATARI. PRINT SHOP is a favorite program. BBS EXPRESS lets his computer telecommunicate with other computers.

Mr. Puzzele is a law student at Rutgers. Much of his computer knowledge is self-taught through experimentation; he seeks help to better enjoy his ST. Call him at (201) 281-6773.

Also attending for the first time was ROBERT HOWARD of Red Bank who is shopping for an ATARI computer. Mr. Howard graduated Deury's Inst. of Electronics. He is developing a printer repair business then later will work on computers. Bob came to our meeting with his friend Craig McGrath of Forked River.

CRAIG McGRATH learned about JACG from Neil Van Oost. Craig is also a 24-bitter: three ATARI 8-bit computers: 800, 1200XL and 130XE. He uses PAPERCLIP for word processing and public domain programs to conduct his business. Mr. McGrath is a distributor for Nuskin International dealing with health care and nutritional products.

Then there was PAUL LOCHARERNKUL of Wyckoff who learned about JACG on the BBS. Mr. LOCHARERNKUL, a business graduate of Washington U. St. Louis, has three ATARI computers: 800, 130XE and ST. He uses PAPER CLIP for word processing and PHASAR, a business/accounting program. Paul recently returned from Thailand (his homeland) after a graduation sabbatical. When asked if he had any comments, Paul said, "ATARI is good but their public relations is not so good".

President Kennedy opened the Question and Answer session. The first one was "What's the difference between an ST and STE. 16-bit VP Noyes described three main differences. When asked how to get a refund for ANTIC subscription, the member was referred to an address in Start Magazine. There was a question about JUGGLER which permits working several programs simultaneously.

One member explained that FIRST WORD PLUS would not print hardcopy italics or underlining. He was told

the printer-driver is at fault. VP Dean said utility disk (#228) in our ST library will correct the fault.

President Kennedy showed us several other-club newsletters. When compared, ours is decidedly outstanding. He also reminded us that June is annual ATARI SAFARI month. We need more demos. Contact an officer on back page. The president requested a show of hands by members using JACG BBS. From those members he learned most use our BBS for Messages, Questions/answers and downloading programs.

Treasurer Jack Rutt gave a favorable financial report and referred us to his report in March newsletter.

Membership Chairman Hochman reported the following renewals. Our membership is now 100.

WAYNE & SUSAN CASTLE - WARREN
M. H. DOBSON - VINELAND
WILLIAM GARMANY, JR. - LIVINGSTON
MICHAEL HOCHMAN - HOWELL
JACK RUTT - ROCKAWAY
WILLIAM A.C. SCHROTH - BRIDGEWATER
FRED ZANT - BOONTON

As proxy for Dave (Dave A!) Arlington, Dave Noyes explained that Z-NET suppliment for our newsletter is missing because, instead of being sent to Dave A!, it was sent to recently married Gary Gorski. Gary was too busy to deliver it to Dave in time for our meeting. VP Noyes also mentioned that ST Magazine will now be published in alternate months.

Mr. Noyes commented on the unsigned letter sent to him. This also disturbed the membership. President Kennedy summed it up beautifully. Unsigned letters might relieve someone's frustration, but are not constructive. Neither are they the mark of bona fide members.

NOTE: When objecting about someone or something, do it constructively and civilly. We don't aim to destroy; we bond together to

build and enjoy.

16-bit Librarian John Dean said his DOM contains a file from STart Magazine listing registered ATARI users groups. Yup! JACG is listed. Three local people who called ATARI, California for a near-by user group are now JACG members. John said response for 16-bit programs is favorable. He added 4 disks to the library. Mr. Dean explained how program submissions are processed before being added to the library. They are compared for duplication, feasibility, classified, then added to a disk. When a disk is full of programs it is put into our library. While the work is full time and consuming, John looks upon it as a labor of love. Refer to March issue for results of his efforts. He would appreciate help. Contact him at address on back page. John mentioned that STart Magazine will make up, on request, any disk of the Antic Library. STart also has excellent 8-bit selections.

Mark Rotton explained how JACG BBS could become part of a National BBS Network to save members long distance modem costs. The membership was unanimously in favor of it. Gary Gorski will work with Mark to develop this project.

The 8-bit demo was BLUE TEAM BRIDGE (from Antic) and superbly played by Mr. PHILIP GREENHUT of Livingston. If you enjoy playing bridge (a card game), this one is a must for your library. It even allows you to correct your misplays. How about that.

JOSEPH ROBORECKY did 16-bit demos. The first a scrolling, color graphic Mickey Mouse with synthized rock by THE MEGA MIGHTY DEMO CLUB. Also MULTI-DESK ACCESSORY an outstanding, thorough, selector program.

16-bit VP Noyes listed on screen and described the 16-bit programs he donated to our JACG library. John Dean just had to shout, "THANK YOU DAVE!".

There were numerous 8 & 16 bit door prizes--even some cassettes.

It was a full, interesting meeting. See you May 11 at our next meeting. Bring a friend; do a demo.

GENERAL FEATURE

REVISITING AN OLD GIRLFRIEND

by Ed Salvesen, JACG

Several years after bringing home an old friend, I still find time for a bit of diversion, regularly, with Ms. Pacman! An arcade, 2600, and computer game megahit, Ms. Pacman was inducted into GAMES magazine's Hall of Fame some time ago. I have always enjoyed 'mazing' about (I have the Pacman and BoulderDash series as well) and besides the fact of the last newsletter being the thinnest I've gotten (it's only my fourth), there are two good reasons I can think of for taking this stroll with Ms. Pacan down memory lane.

Can the first reason be, perhaps, yet another game hint? Yes, it can! Here is a brief review: Excluding the level for kids (panda, not in the arcade version), there are seven difficulty settings you can choose, represented by corresponding foods: cherries, strawberrie, oranges, pretzels, apples, pears, and bananas. The bonus points they offer range from only 100 for cherries to 5000 for bananas. A random fruit selection begins after the 'banana' maze, hence random bonuses.

If you've gotten that far, why settle for as little as 100 bonus points? You will never see the red or light blue screens again during a game after you've gotten past them. Skip them! Try beginning the game at the 'banana' level. Your reward is this: 'Random' fruits will no longer be so random! They will be bananas with few exceptions! Now you can rack up the bonus points you deserve for competing at the higher levels.

Furthermore, if you have been unable to get past the orange maze (orange in color, not the fruit), you'll only have to complete three of them now instead of the usual four to get to the dark blue fourth maze. After completing four of THEM, you go back to the orange maze for four more as the cycle sets up for good, as far as I know. Now, if you get to the dark blue maze a second time and complete two screens, Ms. Pacman is slowed down dramatically and you should retreat often to the escape tunnells. If you get that far, depending on bonuses you've captured, you'll have somewhere between 175000 and 250000 and three 'pac' babies! (That's about my limit. I got a fourth baby just once.) Good luck.

Oh! You want my second reason? Okay! Since many of us already own Ms. Pacman but have let her gather dust somewhere, let me paraphrase Homer Simpson on the question of price: "Can we afford it? Yeah! I think we can handle ZERO!!!" (P.S. For those few who do not have Ms. Pacman laying around, I saw one at Software Spectrum for under \$10!)

RECENT DISKS IN THE JACG ST LIBRARY

JACGLSEA.225

This is an APPLICATION Disk

ADDLBL3.APP This program runs in HIGH and MEDIUM Resolutions. In MEDIUM Resolution, the Screen colors will change to correspond to Menu changes. The program can be used as a traditional Address Label Printer, or as a Data Base of Names, Addresses, and Phone numbers. The program is set to print on single column standard labels 3-1/2" by 15/16". Four lines are printed on each label as follows:

NAME

STREET ADDRESS

CITY

STATE ZIPCODE

The Data Base contains the ability to SORT Labels, MERGE Files, and COPY Labels. It can PRINT ONE, SOME or ALL of the labels.

CAL41.APP Cal is a calendar program with a difference - it lets you attach 'events' to any day of the year, either by date or according to a day's position in the month. When Cal loads, it reads the current date from your system clock and checks to see if any events are scheduled for the day. If so, Cal displays an alert that shows you the day's events. (When Cal loads as an ACC, it dings the system bell if an event is scheduled.) Also included in this file is CalShow, an AUTO program that will read the events from Cal, display the next 22 events on screen, then pause so you can easily see what's on tap for the next couple weeks. This should give you plenty of time to plan for upcoming events!

PGSFE_08.APP is the long awaited Font Editor for Page Stream. This file contains a .DOC file that is in Page Stream format. So that you can read it, we have included a DEMO (Version 1.52) of Page Stream. The Shareware editing program is also in this file.

PGSTREAM.APP This Demo of Page Stream is complete with Fonts so that you will be able to print out Font Editor Docs in PGSFE_08.APP.

JACGLSEA.226

This is GAME disk

JUMPSTER.APP - is a Qbert clone that runs in low res. What more can I say? If you like Qbert, you'll like JUMPSTER. Low Resolution.

REBUS4.APP Rebus Writer allows the user to design and print rebuses, a kind of code in which pictures and symbols are used to represent words. The HELP files in the program should be sufficient to get you started. A KIDPRG in GFA Basic by D.A. Brumleve, Copyright 1988. Low Resolution.

RICK.APP This is the demo of the newer version of Rick Dangerous, the 3rd level seemed to prevent many players from progressing further into the game. The senario stays basically the same with the hero, Rick, part-time explorer and stamp collector, searching for the Goolu tribe when he crashed his plane in the Amazon. This demo only contains several screens available to the user but it gives a fair representation on how good the game actually is. When you reach the last screen you will be told the demo is ended and the game will finish, you can still however play the game again.

ROBOKID.APP Another contribution from Joe Roborecky. Transported from Amiga by Rainbow Software, this is an action game. I had trouble with my joystick, but found a combination of mouse and stick worked out O.K. Low Resolution.

JACGLSEA.227

This is an UTILITY disk.

ARCSH21B.APP ARC Shell is a GEM program which is designed to work with the popular ST archiving utility ARC.TTP. Essentially, ARC Shell adds a GEM interface to the ARC program, letting you point and click to select the various options instead of typing a command line. Revision dated January, 1990.

BLINK30.APP The Blink Utilities give you quick, easy control over the palettes used in your ST. Rather than using the Control Panel accessory and setting your screen colors one by one, Blink and Palette Switcher let you install an entire custom palette with the click of a mouse. What's more, each uses less than half the memory taken up by the Control Panel. Both Blink and Palette Switcher come with a set of palettes already installed, but in case you want to create your own custom palettes, the BlinkSet accessory and BlinkMgr will let you do so. Blink, BlinkSet, and Palette Switcher will run as either programs or desk accessories by simply renaming the files. They will work in any resolution on any ST. The BlinkMgr Librarian runs as a program in either medium or high resolution.

DCFLIGHT.APP DC FLIGHT installs a routine into the read/write vector (RWABS) of storage devices- floppy disks, hard drives, ramdisks, etc. Each time such a device (all with the exception of the floppy) is accessed, the floppy drive A light will come on until the operation is finished. Now you can monitor the usage of ramdisks and caches, since, generally, there was no way to know when they were active.

DCMSHIFT.APP includes DC MOUSE SHIFT emulates any of the modifier keys (SHIFTS, CONTROL and/or ALTERNATE) by pressing the RIGHT MOUSE BUTTON. Now, at the desktop you can select multiple files just by keeping the right mouse button pressed while you are selecting (if you select to emulate one of the SHIFT keys). Or, you can MOVE (TOS 1.4 or higher) files by keeping the right mouse button pressed when you drag and release the files (if you select to emulate the CONTROL key).

DCONVERT.APP To make the process of un-ARCing files easier for you, we use Double Click Software's DC SEA program to convert the ARC and LZH files to self-extracting PRG files. This program, DCONVERT.PRG, converts the self-extracting DC SEA file back to its original form, a standard .ARC or .LZH file. If you run into trouble with some of the JACG ST files, try this out.

DC SLICK.APP DC Slick Shift will emulate either the RIGHT or LEFT mouse button with the press of either one or two modifier keys (Control, Alternate, Left or Right shift keys). You can have DC SLICK SHIFT emulate either/both the LEFT and RIGHT mouse buttons. To do this, you can use one modifier key (say, ALTERNATE for the LEFT mouse button and/or CONTROL for the RIGHT mouse button) or two modifier keys (such as CONTROL and ALTERNATE for the LEFT mouse button, etc).

FCOPYIII.APP FastCopy runs as a program and as an accessory. To start it from the Desktop, call it >FCOPY_3.PRG<. To make TOS recognize it as an accessory

RECENT DISKS IN THE JACG ST LIBRARY

call it >FCOPY_3.ACC< and put it on the boot-disk (A: for drives and C: for harddisks). Faster than Light! You find a brief Survey of all functions FastCopy offers you in main menu under >Help<.

GOGOST24.APP GoGo->ST is a replacement for the file selection windows of the normal GEM desktop. With a single click of the mouse you can run a program or load a document into an application without the tedious search through folders and drives. There are a few better known products out on the market today that allow you to quickly find and execute any program on disk, but many people have said that none are as easy as GoGo->ST to learn and use!

HDFREE21.APP HDFree Pro v2.1 is a program that will generate statistics about the amount of space that is available on your hard drive partitions C-P. It presents it's information in a GEM window that grows larger or smaller depending upon the number of partitions available to the system. By Paul Vermeulen.

LHARC060.APP LHarc can be started from the desktop or from a shell. LHarc knows when it has been started from the desktop. It will allow you to input/edit your command line, and will wait for a keypress when done. If you start LHarc without a command line, it will display a list of commands. LHarc should work fine with a standard ARCshell. Version 0.60 is between 20 and 35 percent faster than v0.51, depending on whether you work from floppy or from hard disk, and on which TOS version you run. We've done some low level optimising, and v0.60 does file buffering (if RAM permits). DeltaVision Systems, Valeriaanstraat 197, 3765 EN Soest The Netherlands.

LZH ARC.PRG This is a ready-to-go, uncompressed, very simple and easy to use program. When you load this program a menu is present with all of the commands available. Performs something like DCOPY.

OCULT1.5.APP OCULTAR [o-cool-tar]va. 1. To hide, to conceal, to disguise, to secrete, to mask, to hoodwink, to cloak. 2. To keep back, to keep secret what ought to be said. In other words, this is a password system to keep others from all your computer secrets. Version 1.5 Shareware by Carl J. Hafner.

JACGLSEA.228

This is a UTILITY Disk.

ARCBIT.APP ARCBIT is a utility program that will set or reset the archive bit on all normal files within a user-supplied directory. This allows any backup program that uses the archive bit to skip over or backup the files that the user has flagged with the utility. This is especially useful for that folder nested deep within the backup pathway, full of files that you do not want to backup.

ARC2LZH21.APP ARC LZH version 2.0 Start the program by double-clicking on ARC2LZH2.PR.G. After the ABOUT ME dialog appears, just hit return and you will be presented with the main menu. At the top of the dialog box there is a Title bar. It will have "ARC LZH" in it when you first run the program. By clicking on the bar you can switch between "ARC LZH" to "LZH ARC" and back.

ATTRIBUT.APP To use this program, simply run it from the desktop. To see or change the attributes of any file shown, just point and left click on the filename. Attributes shown are A for archive (used by many backup programs to indicate a current backup), D for directory, L for disk label, H for hidden, S for system and R for read only. By Tom Hayslett.

BAPACK.APP BA Pack is an executable program packer. It takes an existing program, which may have a .PRG, .TOS, .TTP, or .ACC extender, and creates a file which is smaller but still remains executable. This frees up disk space, and allows more programs to fit on a floppy disk or hard disk. Desk accessories as well as normal applications can be packed.

BOOTMNG.APP Bootmanager will provide a unique computing "environment", of your choosing, each time you boot your system. You create these environments ahead of time using the Bootmanager configuration program. You may add items to your environments at any time.

DCOPY36.APP DCOPY is a versatile copying, un'ARcing, ARcing, text reader - you name it - that has had almost 60 'bugs' fixed or improvements added to it to bring it to version 3.6. Also in this file is Dcopy Shell- a "simple" GEM menu-based program that takes care of input for Dcopy 3.xx while using <10K. All text-based menu selections are found in the GEM menu. To allow compatibility, keystrokes are passed through as normal. Menu selections are substituted by their equivalent keystroke and passed to the program. Accessories are now accessible under the menu bar posing "no" problems within Dcopy- thus adding additional options not allowed before!

DLII 024.APP DL II is a checkdisk/unerase/diskedit program with the following functions: -Disk usage display -Check of FAT integrity -Check for lost and crosslinked clusters -Some disk fix functions -Automatic and manual unerase -File attribute change -Disk editing, file or sector oriented -Editing of harddisk bootsector. DL II is completely GEM based and will run on any Atari-ST model in medium or high resolution. (c) 1987 Simon Poole

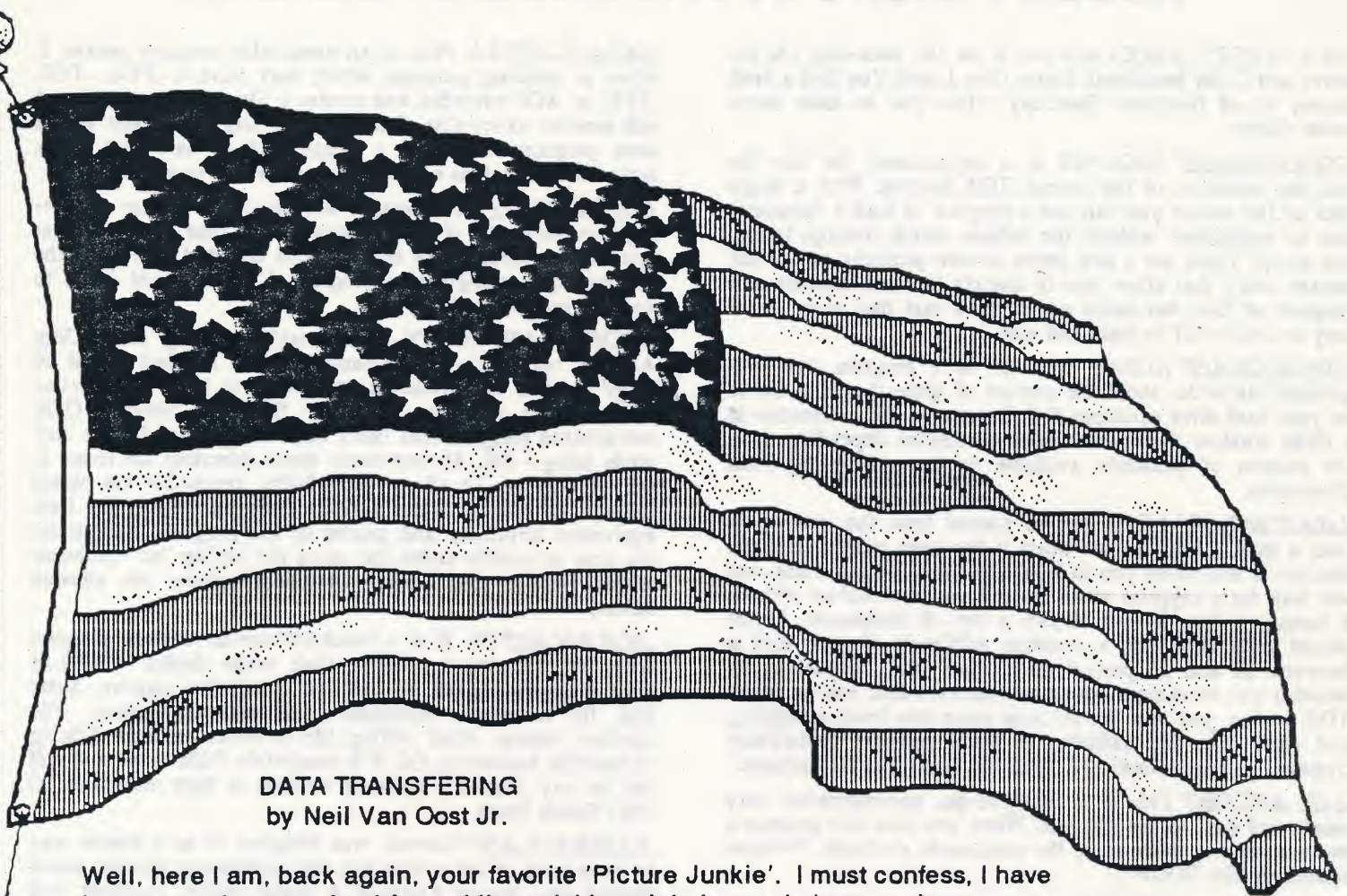
EASTBACK.APP Fastback was designed to be a simple way to keep track of last logins; but also implements another useful feature that makes Fastback a useful utility. Fastback will change the desktop.inf file whenever you switch monitors. This is a must for users of two monitors) who simply hate to have one desktop for both colour and monochrome.

FAST.FMT.APP Kiwi-Net Present The Fast Formatter .ACC It will format a disk in 18 seconds, but the disk should be a new one. This is ideal to have as an ACC as you can run it when you need it....

FONTRIX.APP The program FONTRIX.ACC is out of the January 1987 issue of ST-Log (issue # 10). If you have any questions about using different types of fonts with it, refer to the article.

LGSELECT.APP The Little Green Selector is a complete replacement for the dreaded GEM item selector. Once it's installed, all programs that call the GEM item selector will end up using the vastly improved Little Green Selector instead. You can install it at bootup time by placing it in an AUTO folder, or run it from the desktop at any time after bootup. The Little Green Selector optimizes the process of selecting files, with unique features that make this easier than ever before. Shareware by Charles F. Johnson. Version 1.7.

PAN1080ILL.APP The PAN1080LHEX was originally a HEX file that came with my 1st Word Plus program. But it lacking many of the characters within the font table I choose to rewrite many of the codes and to add the missing codes. Now you will be able to use any of the fonts shown in the Font Tables of 1st Word or 1st Word Plus. Don Schmidt (SWAG) P.S. Some of you adventurous might try using the CFG file with those other Word Processors and have the ability to print out 1st Word Plus DOCs as well as your own DOCs. Also, this file will probably work with most Epson 9 pin compatibles.



DATA TRANSFERING by Neil Van Oost Jr.

Well, here I am, back again, your favorite 'Picture Junkie'. I must confess, I have been away from my Atari for awhile and this article is now being typed on my new computer. Which brings me to the subject of this article, "Data Transferring". With my acquisition of a 386SX IBM clone type computer came the need to transfer files both to and from my 130XE. Some of the things I wanted to transfer were, of course, picture files. Secondary things I wanted to transfer were text files.

Although there have been several good articles written on how to transfer data between an Atari and IBM, none of them seem to fit my immediate needs. I wanted something 'off the shelf', which I could just plug in and use right away. Also something that was compatible with the software I already had on both machines. Without having both machines hooked together, I had been using a friend's BBS to upload from one machine and download with the other. This works, but is very time consuming and requires that you have a friend who will let you use his BBS that way.

What I needed was a quick, cheap way to eliminate Ma Bell and the two modems required. In other words a NULL-modem connection between machines. Now I could use the serial port on my 386 as this is what I use to talk to my external modem. Infact I could use the cable going from the serial port to the modem on the 386. On the Atari side I had two different options I could use. I could hook into my MIO or the 850 interface I had hooked up. I chose the 850 as I already had a cable for that.

Now both cables had a DB25 (25 pin) male connector at the modem end. Down at my local Radio Shack, I found a null modem connector which had a male DB25 at one end and a DB25 female at the other. What I needed was female connectors at both ends to match up with the modem cables, so one more item was needed, an item called a Gender Changer, or some times called a Gender Bender. I just happened to have one in my junk box from a previous project. I had picked it up at a computer show for \$3.00. Radio Shack also has these although they cost a little more. Now I was able to connect both computers together with a minimum of fuss.

DATA TRANSFERING

Continued.....

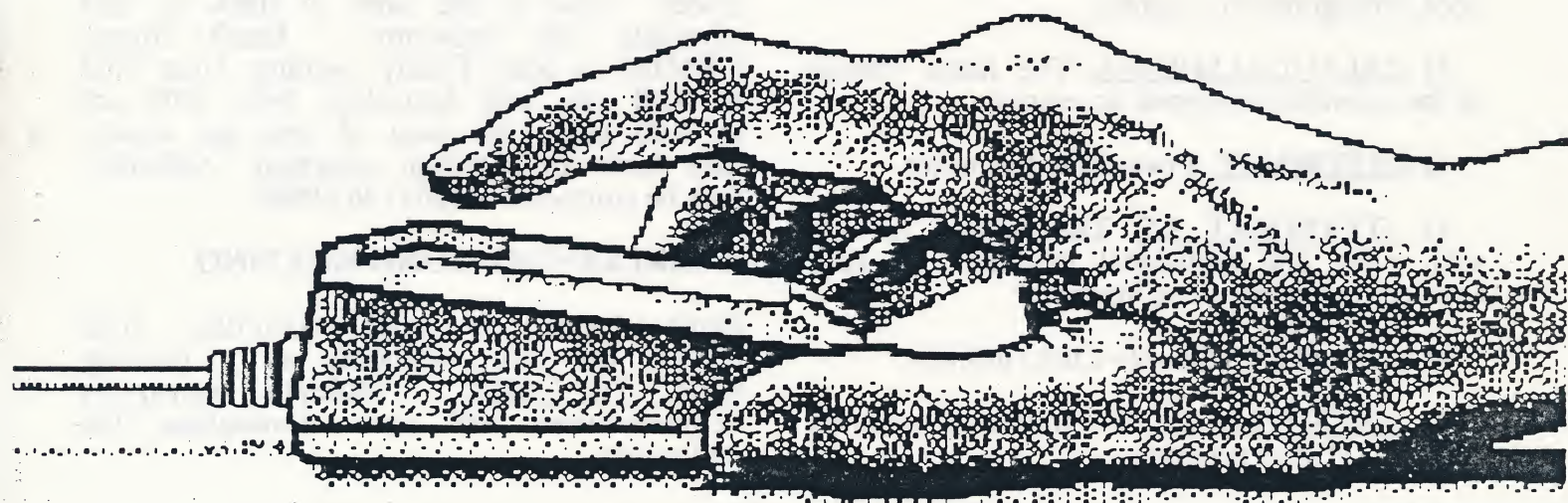
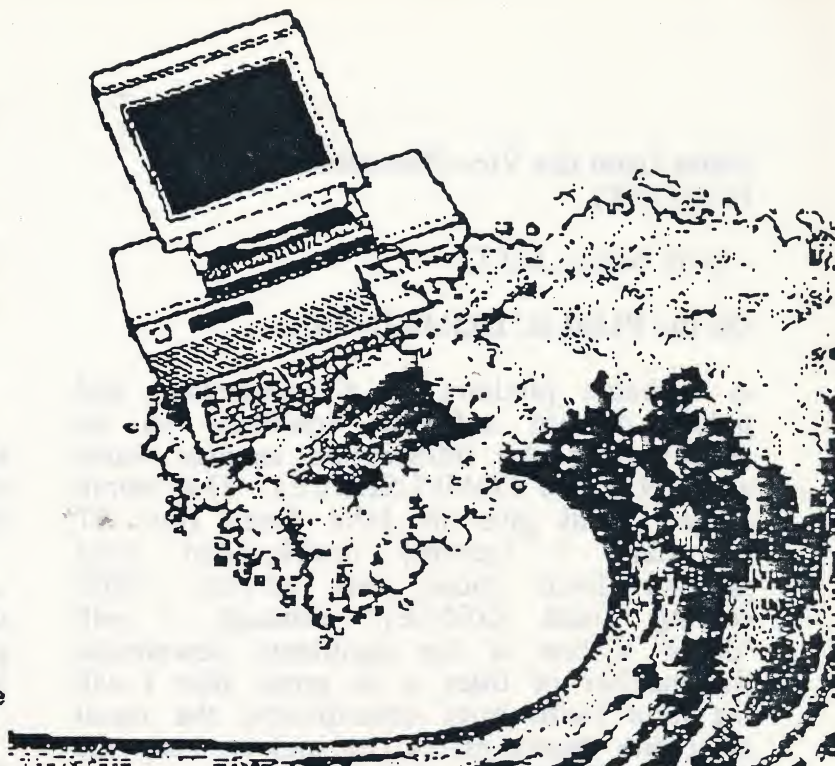
The next thing to consider was the terminal program to use. Both terminal programs would have to operate at between 9600 to 19200 baud. The reason for these rates was the 850 interface operates at 9600 and the MIO can handle up to 19200 baud. I chose ProCom for the 386 and BobTerm for the 130XE. Both were set up for 9600 baud, full duplex and ASCII translation. ProCom was set up for no parity, 8 data bits and one stop bit.

At 9600 baud, files transferred very fast between the two machines. 9600 baud is the normal transfer rate of the Atari 8-bit bus. When transferring to the 8-bit machine, you should remember to check the size of the file you are transferring. Some picture files on the IBM compatible will exceed the size of your storage medium. There are two different type of picture files that lend themselves to viewing on both machines. They are GIF, graphics interchange format and the older RLE, run length encoded format. GIF files can be quite large, they can run between a couple of K, on up to over 700K.

There is a new GIF converter for the 8-bit out on the BBS's that I am waiting to get hold of. As soon as I do I'll give all my fellow 'Picture Junkies' the low down. Hopefully soon I will be able to port over all those fancy GIF picture files that I have in IBM format to the 8-bit. And perhaps someone will find away to convert them for use with DaisyDot III.

Transferring text files is just as easy as transferring picture files, but there is on slight barrier. After you transfer a file, it must be in a useable form. The best form to have your text file in is ASCII format. This format is the most widely used amoung word processors, text processors, and will be accepted by most desk top publishers. After you transfer the file, in most cases, you can then convert it to another format.

Well that about wraps it up for this month. Hope you like the graphics from my new toy, these pages were produced using PFS:First Publisher for the IBM. Hopefully I will be able to find away to transfer some of this really great clip-art over to the 8-bit.



Noise from the Vice-President 16-bit (ST)

- D. B. Noyes, JACG

On the PUBLIC DOMAIN front

A veritable plethora of ST shareware and public domain software continues to be available on the information services (such as GENIE and COMPUERVE). This month alone I will give to John Dean (our ST Librarian) 7 (seven!) double-sided disks gleaned from those two services (80% coming from GENIE), although I will "demo" a few of the significant downloads, the number of titles is so great, that I will list here (with brief descriptions) the result of a one month effort (by me) to keep the JACG's ST library full of the latest new and/or updated releases.

Some of the larger files include:

1) Treasurer, a full-featured accounting program designed especially for a church treasurer, but easily modified for secular use (perhaps for a user-group treasurer?)

2) Gemini Desktop ver. 1.2 (the latest; re-written, faster, and feature-laden), an alternative to the "normal" ST desktop.

3) TLC Utilities, a collection of 7 (seven) utilities (SHOW, PLAY, NAMER, FIXER, ATTR, FORM2 and BOOK2).

4) SUPERBOOT 7.0, the latest and most up-to-date release of the famous boot/configuration program.

5) CAL47/CALSHO47A, The latest release of the calendar/notebook accessory.

6) AB FORMAT, a two-drive formatter.

7) FLOORMAT 3.5, The update to 3.0, with color and additional modules. A full-featured, error checking formatter.

8) Assorted DC (Double-Click) utilities.

9) ARCSHELL 2.4, C. Johnson's updated ARC/LZH shell program.

10) HOTSAVER 2.0, C. Johnson's screensaver designed to be used with the commercial "HOTWIRE", but which can be used separately.

11) MCBROWS, a program designed for use with ST ALADDIN (the GENIE access program) which allows one to read and search the main list of files.

12) NOVAGAME, an excellent "INVADERS"-type "shoot-'em-up" for the ST.

13) MASSKILL, you guessed, delete many files at once. Use with care!

14) INVENTORY PRO 5.75. Usable demo (limited amount of items can be input) of the latest from Hi-Tech. Must send \$ to get completely usable version.

15) ...and many others!

GEMINI ENTERPRISES HALF-PRICE SALE

All - Yes ALL software (8 & 16 bit, and IBM, currently in the store (Ridgedale Ave., Morristown) is (for a short time) available for one-half GEMINI's normal prices. Now is the time to stock up and stimulate the economy. Don't forget, GEMINI is open Friday evenings from 5:00 to 8:00 pm, and Saturdays from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. As most of you are aware, they have an excellent selection. GEMINI may be contacted at (201) 267-0988.

ATARI SAFARI - JUNE MEETING

Don't forget to mark Saturday, June 8, 1991, on your calendars as a meeting NOT TO MISS. Multiple concurrent demonstrations will occur throughout the auditorium.



IN THIS ISSUE

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Layoffs at Atari Canada
START goes Bi-Monthly
STACY on TV

March 1991 Volume III Number 3

ATARI SPEAKS: SAM TRAMIEL, GREG PRATT, BILL REHBOCK IN CONFERENCE

Prepared by John Nagy

1990 and 1991 have marked a new openness at Atari... Last Fall, Leonard Tramiel spoke at length to crowds at the GLENDALE ATARI FAIRE, and already this winter have held four live conferences on GENie and CompuServe, international telecommunications networks where users can communicate by modem in real time with up to hundreds of others.

Although an appearance at a live question-and-answer session by Atari CEO Sam Tramiel on GENie drew nearly 200, the number of attendees was too much for the GENie computers, and callers were dissatisfied by repeated disconnections. (Four times in the history of GENie, "crowds" at conferences have overloaded and shut down the system... each time, it was Atari's Sam Tramiel that was "too popular".)

As the initial conference was a jumble, Sam arranged to have the new Atari USA President, Greg Pratt, appear the following week on GENie. One thing did get announced: Sam admitted that rumors of a 1 meg Mega STE without a hard drive were true.

Meanwhile, Atari's Bill Rehbock was doing a conference on CompuServe, followed by another conference with Sam on Thursday night, February 21, 1991. For the evening event, CIS waived all connect charges for the participating callers. The conference was moderated by Ron Luks, the manager of the Atari areas on CIS. Here are some key comments of Mr. Tramiel, edited for length only and re-ordered for clarity.

On New Products to come from Atari:

› Unix will be shown on March 13 at the Hannover faire in Germany. It will be Unix System V.4, X-windows, Motif, and a front-end named "Wish".

› Panther... is a 68000 running at 16MHz game machine which we will probably ship in early 1992. Software is now being written for the Panther. It will even allow for Lynx to network with some games.

› We plan to make more applications software and peripherals available on the Portfolio. We are definitely

planning to make small notebook-like machines which will be 68000 ST-based.

› MIDI-tasking is currently in beta-testing, and will be released as soon as it is finished.

About emulators being built in to Atari products as original equipment:

› This is an interesting idea that you have, and we are investigating such things all the time. I cannot say more than that.

On Atari's plans for Dealers and Marketing:

› We think that we have a very clear marketing direction. We are trying to sell personal computers to people at the best possible price. Of course, we consider backup and service by our dealers, and we want to develop a good dealer network. We do plan to sell customers like Circuit City [God willing]. We have no plans at present to sell at K-Mart. The TT030 will definitely be sold through qualified dealers who can explain advanced computer use.

› We plan to support our long-time dealers even more than we have in the past. Greg Pratt, who was our corporate CFO, is now President of Atari US, and is making a big effort to build up a team to support all of our dealers. We are looking for dealers who really understand our products and who will be there to support you... If any of you out there have suggestions for dealers who want to make money in the long term, please call Greg Pratt at 408-745-2349 and give him the name and address of such dealers.

› We plan to advertise in the US through our dealers. And as this network expands, we will do national advertising. This will not occur until we do have a national network. We feel that advertising through our dealers will get us good exposure and will start to expand the user base. We are also bringing in MIDI software from Europe and will work closely with developers to assure its availability. We are, as you know, supporting our own magazine, Atari Explorer. And are happy to support any other magazine as well. Stacy is available for

Continued on page Z*5...

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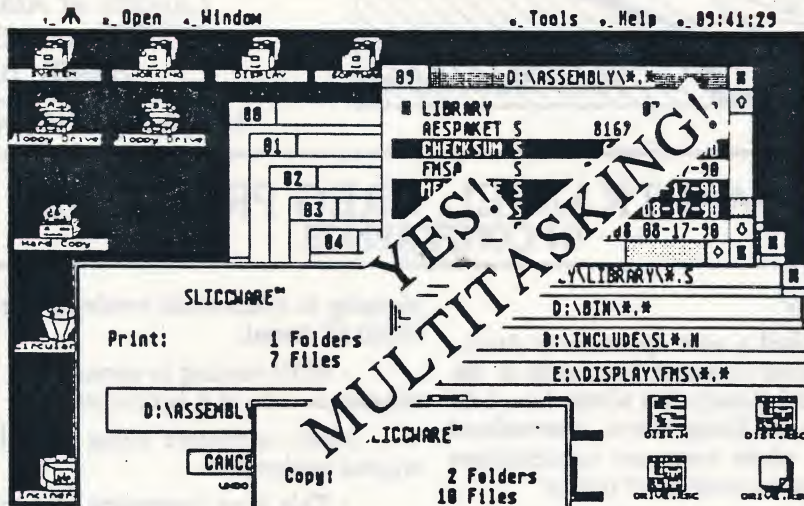
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By Randy Foster
President of SLICCWARE™

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Or to order directly, send \$49.95 (check or money order payable to SLICCWARE) to:

SLICCTOP, P.O. Box 2609, Kirkland, WA 98083



Z*Net Newswire...



⇒ Developers for Atari products are now ded into two tiers for purposes of support by Atari. Tier 1 includes only developers of current commercial products, and costs \$250 to register. Tier 1 developers get the ST/TT Developer's Kit with updates, the developer newsletter, access to Atari Developer Roundtable on GENie, support by phone and online, and availability of discounted Atari products. The products of the developer are also considered in corporate bundling and marketing opportunities. Tier 2 developers need not have a commercial product, must pay a registration fee of \$125 and \$50 annual renewals, and only get the developer's kit and access to a separate Tier 2 support area on GENie. Contact Atari Corp for more details.

⇒ In Toronto, Atari Canada laid off approximately 30% of its staff at the beginning of February. Atari General Manager Geoff Earle was unavailable for comment, but other sources at Atari would only state it was a positive move. Speculation has it that Alwin Stumpf from Germany is soon to arrive and will complete the restructuring. Atari had announced earlier that changes would be happening in the U.S. and Canada as they came under the Atari North America plan. Mark Cambell, contacted at Atari Canada, said the layoffs were in the Accounting Department and that those function will be handled by Atari U.S. from now on. He also mentioned that a company in Markham is now responsible for translating software from Germany and France and introducing it into the North American market. Further, Mark volunteered that

Atari is planning to introduce 8 or so new machines in the next 2 years. One will be a stripped down version of the TT with optional hard disk and 2 megs, 16 Mhz 68030. Others will be 68040 and RISC based computers. Most of the new products will build on the existing ST/TT technology rather than MS-DOS machines.

⇒ The Alberta Teachers Federation will see Atari Canada out in force this year at their convention scheduled for March 14th through 16th. Murray Brown reported to Z-Net that he has very high expectations for the educational market during the next year. Murray, formerly the B.C. Atari Rep, was promoted recently to Western Sales Manager of Atari Canada. Atari Canada's Rob McGowan has taken over Educational Sales from Bruce Corbett who left in recent restructuring. Rob reports that interest in the Atari product is showing definite signs of improvements in the school system.

⇒ Atari Canada has agreed to attend and support the PACIFIC NORTHWEST ATARIFEST, to be held June 15th and 16th at the Steveston Senior Secondary School, 10440 Number Two Road, Richmond B.C. Canada. drawing as many as 3,000 to 5,000 users from Washington State and Western Canada. This is the first major Canadian Atari show west of Toronto. Two stages and two lecture halls provide for ample seminar and demonstration areas. Z*Net Online will be reporting LIVE from the floor of the event. Developers, retailers, and User Groups should contact TerrySchreiber at (604) 275-7944,

T.Schreiber1 on GENie, or Node #505 Atari West BBS on F-Net.

⇒ In mid-February, Atari recognized CompuServe's Portfolio Forum as an Official Atari Support Site for Portfolio Users. Atari President Greg Pratt says that Atari technical support representatives and representatives from most of the Portfolio software developer organizations can now be contacted online through the Forum facilities and CompuServe's electronic mail network. A special area has been set up on the CompuServe Portfolio Forum for new announcements on hardware and software. CompuServe's library includes more than 300 files for the palmtop MS-DOS compatible computer. CompuServe is offering a complimentary introductory membership booklet to the CompuServe Information Service including an initial \$15.00 usage credit. Call (800) 848-8199 and ask for representative 198.

⇒ A new regular band member for the popular ARSENIO HALL SHOW, a syndicated weeknight television show, is the ATARI STACY. Look for it in the center of the band stage, clearly visible many times in the program. The portable ST computer has been shown several times in close-up, notably in the "return bump" shot of the band after the second commercial break of the evening. This "product placement" is part of the continuing efforts at Atari's marketing plan to raise public awareness and acceptance of their products.

⇒ Editor Tom Byron of START Magazine says that his magazine will begin a bi-

monthly publishing schedule beginning immediately. Thus, the FEBRUARY issue will be the first to bear a two-month title, becoming FEBRUARY/MARCH and released in March. Tom says the reasons are corporate-wide and not directly related to START's profitability. Computer industry advertising is down dramatically overall, and cuts are being made in several of START's parent company's lines. AMIGA PLUS was discontinued altogether. However, Tom says that he expects that START will return to a monthly schedule at some later date when the industry picks up. A sister publication to START specializing in PC computers shows signs of being a large financial success, and if so, START may be returned to monthly status soon. Tom Byron adds that subscribers will get the number of issues they paid for, and that he hopes that each issue will be larger and feature more in-depth articles.

⇒ Step Ahead Software announced TRACKER/ST v2.5, the latest update to its mailing list, mail merge, and person tracking software. The biggest change is fully support for WordFlair II, the document processor from Goldleaf Publishing, and support for the Atari TT in all resolutions. Tracker/ST's suggested retail price remains \$79.95. Registered users may upgrade for \$7.50. Step Ahead Software, Tracker/ST Upgrade, 496-A Hudson Street, Suite F39 New York City, NY 10014, (212) 627-5830.

⇒ Maxwell Computer Products Unlimited is now
Continued...



...Z*Net Newswire



shipping "Exposé" for the Atari ST. Exposé offers a notepad and a graphics window from a desk accessory. It also gives quick display of the disk/partition free space, editable date/time, access to the file selector, a screen snapshot, a formatting function, access to the extended ASCII character set and a display of the free system RAM. The Exposé notepad can send portions of the notepad directly from Exposé to the main program being utilized (e.g., a word processor). The window displays DEGAS, DEGAS compressed, Neochrome, Tiny, IMG, GEM and Macpaint file formats. Low or medium ST pictures are converted to high resolutions. Clipped areas of the image can be edited then saved in IMG format. \$39.95, from dealers or Maxwell C.P.U., P.O. BOX 576, Louisville, CO. or call (303) 666-7754.

⇒ Soft-Aware has improved INFORMER II, their relational data/image manager system, now in version 2.03. Image files are logically connected to records within the database and accessed for casual or "slideshow" viewing. The number of data fields is up from 36 to 52. You can now view external image or text files, even HEX files. Most of the Change, Find and other options have been enhanced or expanded. The main work screens and many of the dialog boxes have been worked over as well. INFORMER II runs on the Atari ST, STe, & TT series of computers, with the PC version to be available soon. Soft-Aware, Unlimited, 334 "B" N. Euclid Avenue, Upland, CA 91786, (714) 982-8409, GENie: R.SKRAIY

⇒ A BBS operator, at odds with the Michigan Bell Telephone Company, failed to provide required documents and had his lawsuit dismissed in January. The suit has enjoyed substantial publicity, but the Sysop of the "Variety and Spice" BBS, Jim Emhauf, reportedly misunderstood Court instructions and failed to comply with orders that resulted in the dismissal. Emhauf has been acting without an attorney. He may file a new complaint and begin again in his effort to prevent Michigan Bell from imposing business rates on his BBS. While Emhauf had predicted that as many as 300 people would attend his hearings in support of the BBS community, fewer than 5 appeared at the dismissal.

⇒ Several BBS systems in the Sacramento area have been exceptionally active in pirate files, and have additionally been harassing local Atari user groups. Atari Corporation has added their assistance to that of Pacific Bell's Electronic Fraud division, and several boards have already gone down with more action to come. A representative indicated that they felt that they had an excellent chance of busting a major piracy ring, and that only the final portions of the investigation remained.

⇒ Electronic Arts has announced a series of new games for the ST and other computers. Scheduled for release now or in the next weeks, they include:
 * From CINEMAWARE, "AIR STRIKE USA" is a combat flight simulator. It combines arcade action and strategy to control the Advance Tactical Fighter II in

a variety of intercontinental scenarios. (\$39.95, available for ST, IBM, and Amiga.)

* Strategic Simulations, Inc. is releasing "CURSE OF THE AZURE BONDS", a sequel to "Pool of Radiance". A role playing adventure, BONDS has 24 high-level spells and characters. (\$59.95 for the ST, Macintosh; \$49.95 for Amiga, PC, Apple II; \$39.95 for C64/128. Cluebook - \$12.95.)

* SEGA's hit, GOLDEN AXE is also available for the ST now. Challenge the Death Adder to save the people of Yuria in this arcade game. (\$49.95, ST and Amiga; \$39.95 IBM; \$34.95 C64.)

* "NIGHT SHIFT" is a toy factory scenario arcade simulation from Lucasfilm Games is now on the Amiga and IBM with ST and C64 versions to follow. (\$39.95)

* "CRACKDOWN", also from SEGA, features cyborgs of the evil Dr. K, who wants to destroy all purely biological life. (\$49.95 ST and Amiga, \$39.95 IBM, \$34.95 C64.)

* UBI SOFT has "B.A.T.", the Bureau of Astral Troubleshooters. An adventure that lets you live out every aspect of life as an agent who can save Terrapolis on the planet of Selnia. Over 1,100 places can be visited in the game. (\$49.95 for ST, IBM, Amiga, \$34.95 for C64.)
 * "DRAGONLORD" from Cinemaware, is a strategic role play game in which you guide dragons as your weapons of combat. You need to hatch and raise them too! (\$49.95 for ST, IBM, Amiga.)

⇒ Nintendo announced in February that it will work with Sony to develop a compact-disc player for Nintendo's "Super Famicom" video-game system software. The development of a CD

Player will help Nintendo introduce a new generation of video-game computers after "Super Famicom," which was introduced last November in Japan.

⇒ A jury in a suit brought by Thomas I. Rattigan, formerly president and CEO of Commodore, returned a verdict in favor of Rattigan, finding that his dismissal by the company was improper. The suit sought damages of approximately \$9 million. A determination of the amount of damages to be awarded will be decided by the court in the next few months.

⇒ IBM scientists have built the world's fastest high-capacity memory chip. The new chip can send/receive eight billion bits of information per second. The chip is a Static Random Access Memory (SRAM) chip that holds 512K (524,288) bits of information. The chip also holds the world speed records for both cycle and access time for memory chips with more than 64K bits of information storage.

⇒ Ziff Communications announced "Computer Select", a complete CD-ROM-based computer product information database designed to stretch support resources and promote cost-effective purchasing. Computer Select, which begins shipping in February in single-user and LAN versions, contains powerful search software that allows users to cross-index products, companies, publications, topics, or any word or combination of words that appear in the text.

Call the Z*Net BBS -
201-968-8148

ATARI SPEAKS... Continued from page Z*1

professional use, ie. Musicians.. We have them in stock, and can ship now. If you have any particular questions in the music area, please call James Grunke at 408-745-4966. He is our new MIDI guru and ex-Beach Boy member. We will be happy to support an attend any coordinated effort for a user group show in the south. Contact Bob Brodie at 408-745-2052.

About Upgrade paths and dropping prices:

> We are planning a 1.44 mb drive in the future and will also make this available as an upgrade on TTs and Mega STEs.

> We offer more power, features, for less money over time. If we do not lower prices and offer more features, we would quickly be out of business. The 1.44 mb floppy is being designed at present and when the Mega STE and TT were designed, this was taken into consideration. We are not trying to abandon, and will not abandon, 1040 owners. However, we cannot always satisfy issues like this. The VME card is a whole different issue. To offer expansion requires larger power supplies and other components which increases the cost of the computer. The 1040 is a lower priced machine, and therefore cannot have such features. If you don't buy it now, and always wait for the next price reduction/feature improvement, you'll never buy a computer. You'll always be waiting.

> I appreciate that you love your Atari 8-bit system. Unfortunately, most users in the US have been convinced that they need 16-bit or 32-bit systems. Because of this, very few 8-bit machines are being sold in the US. And therefore, little software is being developed. If you have needs for commercial software, come on, let's go for it! Buy an ST!

From his early February Live Conference on GENie - **Greg Pratt:** I have been an associate of Jack Tramiel's for the past twelve years. During that time frame, we went through the most explosive portion of the home computer growth with the Commodore 64.

I was President of the US operations for Commodore during that time frame. After Jack left Commodore, I came with him, and was part of a new start up company called Tramiel Technology. This was the beginning of the company that ultimately purchased Atari. I am one of the six people in the management team that came in when Jack purchased Atari. Since that time, I have held a number of positions with the company, the latest one being the Chief Financial Officer for Atari Corp.

I'd also like to fill you in on some of the current happening here at the US subsidiary. We will use our Strategic Partner Program, where we will be working with approximately 100 key dealers located throughout the US. These dealers will be especially qualified to provide high end customers with the type of support that they require. As part of the Strategic Partner Program, we will be working with key developers in each of their areas of application. We will be using distributors as a secondary method of distributing our products. The Lynx, the Portfolio, and the STEs are all in

distribution now. The only products that will be held back from distribution will be the TT. We feel this will enable us to have a greater penetration throughout the US market. We have lowered our suggested retail prices on our machines:

- * 1040 STE - \$599.95
- * Mega STE (2mb, 50 mbHD) - \$1699.95
- * Mega STE (4mb, 50 mbHD) - \$1849.95
- * TT030/2-50 - \$2399.95
- * TT030/4-50 - \$2799.95
- * TT030/8-80 - \$3799.95
- * Megafile 30 - \$599.95
- * Megafile 44 - \$899.95 w/cart
- * Megafile 60 - \$799.95
- * SLM605 Laser - \$1295.95

From his January Live Conference on CompuServe - **Bill Rehbock:** My title is actually Director of Technical Services. I have been with Atari since September of 1990. I have been an Atari user since the 400 & 800 days... I have been a registered ST developer since July of 1985 when I purchased my dev kit with 520 ST for about \$4000!

The position is actually a new one for Atari, my predecessors all worked for Atari Corporate... and my role is much, much more closely situated to the sales side of things. I think the best thing that Atari can do is get product back out in the market. It's one of the reasons that I am -very- closely tied into pricing decisions, etc. I truly believe that things are headed in the right direction. The 1040STE is now available to dealers through distributors... the "It takes \$20,000 to be an Atari dealer" crap is gone... the new pricing is right.

On the developer side... I need APPLICATIONS. Nothing against anyone, but we've got more darn utilities than Peter Norton would ever know what to do with. If the effort was spent in developing application software, the world would be a better place.

SoftSource is Dan MacNamee's puppy, and is definitely alive and well. We are waiting for the entries to come in from Australia... and the rework of the CDAR504 to be finished. Chinon discontinued the mechanism that we were using in the 504, but we WILL have a replacement very soon. Until then...there is no reason why developers can't take advantage of MetaDOS (the device driver for things like CDROM players, CDROM Juke Boxes, etc.) and do software for anybody's CDROM drive.

Keeping the computers in stock is a very high priority now, the dealer program for the first time in 4 years makes sense, and if I'm crazy enough to relocate from Chicago to Sunnyvale, you should all hang in there just a little longer to see how Atari performs. There are no promises this time, just action! The TT runs rings around a 386 with Windows-3, Microsoft is starting to get the 'emperor has no clothes' press it deserves, and Macintosh dealer margins are falling. We could surprise a few people very soon.

VIDI-ST GOES 4,096 COLORS! VIDI-CHROME ST FIRST REVIEW

by John Nagy

Almost two years ago, the VIDI-ST video digitizer came to America from Scotland... and instant live TV graphics have never been the same for the Atari ST. Now, the next step has arrived, and full color is now available for VIDI pictures... for \$39 or less!

Vidi-Chrome ST is a software package that includes three color filters for use over the lens of a camera, and requires the original VIDI-ST cartridge to operate. While the VIDI-ST alone does quality instantaneous "grabs" from any video signal, live or tape, it does so in a monochrome, or rather, 16 shade picture. While the shades may be a color tint and are displayed in Low (color) resolution, they are still a 16 gradient picture. Vidi-Chrome changes that. And the results are stunning. I wish we could share some of them with you here in print, but SPECTRUM pictures must be seen on screen to be appreciated.

While the software of Vidi-Chrome is quite sophisticated in adjustability and features, the essence of getting a Spectrum-format 512 color (4,096 available on the STe machines!) is simple enough: Take three "grabs" of the same picture, one each through a red, blue, and green filter, then merge the three, and sort the results into a color picture.

After only five minutes of fumbling through the 44 page manual, I was doing my first picture. Even though the book warned me not to expect much from a first attempt, my finished 512 color picture was amazingly accurate. Later efforts produced even sharper images, spurring me to what was almost an all night play session. I found that small readjustments in contrast and brightness make large changes in the quality of pictures. While most pictures are good, some extra care can make them outstanding.

Other Z*NET staff members have been busily comparing the ease of use and quality of color reproduction of VIDI-CHROME against COMPUTER EYES/ DIGISPEC and other software. They report that VIDI-CHROME wins hands down on repeatability and color accuracy... as well as being much faster.

The flexibility of the Vidi-Chrome software is remarkable, allowing color pictures to be saved or loaded into DEGAS, NEOCHROME, ART (Vidi-ST's own paint package), IFF/HAMM (standard for file trades with IBM and Amiga, including the Amiga version of Vidi-Amiga), Spectrum Compressed and Spectrum Uncompressed. Yes, you can do full color pictures in the 16 color DEGAS format, as Vidi-Chrome will choose the best mix of palette and dither the colors together to produce the best representation of the original picture possible. While the 16 color modes are less sharp and not as smoothly shaded as the 512 mode, they are satisfactory for many pictures (and smaller and more versatile).

DEGAS palettes can be manually tweaked and re-merged with the picture, allowing the user to add in, for instance, an eye-blue where the computer had decided to skip that color as underrepresented in the overall photo. Then when the computer re-merges the picture, it will use that blue where it should, bringing back a detail where it had left it out before. Needless to say, using the 512 color mode is easier, as the computer does all the work. Overall color rebalancing can be

done via a menu where the input of each color can be adjusted. Black and white cameras can also be used to produce full color pictures!

With the right camera technique and a sharp subject image, the 512 color mode brings far more detail and subtlety into the picture that can be imagined by inspection of the single color grabs, which until now have been all we had to offer with Vidi-ST. The results are as sharp and as true colored as any color digitized Spectrum pictures yet seen on the ST, but much faster and easier to do. I have not tried the system yet using an STe machine (drat!), so I can only assume that the 4,096 color operation will be even better, smoother, and sharper. However, one may create 4,096 color pictures on any ordinary ST, for display on an STe machine.

Editing features abound on Vidi-Chrome as well. Flips and negatives, pasting windows, merging pictures of different original formats, etc. The three source frames (red, green, and blue) can be saved for later use, to be merged at will for whatever project you might want. Sequences, the high point of the monochrome operation of Vidi-ST, cannot be made in color.

Also mentioned in the manual, in a flyer inside the Vidi-Chrome package, and even on the outside packing sleeve, is "VIDI-RGB", a hardware color splitter, listed as available for 69.96 pounds... about \$100 US. While this device is not yet marketed in the USA, it goes between the camera or VCR and the computer, as well as plugging into the printer port on the ST. When used, it automatically collects the three primary color shots WITHOUT USING THE FILTERS, in real time, all done in well under ONE SECOND. This allows live color captures of all but moving objects, as well as color captures from videotape. A "perfect" still frame is required for the best result. I called Pacific Software, distributors for the VIDI products, to see what the plans might be to start importing the VIDI-RGB device. Mark at Pacific tells me that they may have the first VIDI-RGB units within "weeks"... I'll keep you posted.

In short, the Vidi-Chrome package is an absolute MUST HAVE ITEM for any Vidi-ST owner, and is available for \$39.95 retail, and perhaps as low as \$30 on sales. You can't beat it, you will love it, and you may not sleep at night for days after you get it. Ask for it at your software dealer, Vidi-Chrome ST is NOW available through any distribution outlet that carries or can get VIDI-ST.

If you can't find a dealer convenient to your area, try THE COMPUTER NETWORK. Z*NET has arranged a good price for our readers on both the VIDI-ST hardware and the VIDI-CHROME software. VIDI-ST retails at \$199, and The Computer Network will sell it to you for \$155, shipping INCLUDED (domestic USA). VIDI-CHROME, which requires Vidi-ST, is a \$39.95 retail but only \$35 (again, shipping included to US addresses) from The Computer Network. Visa, Mastercard, and American Express accepted, call (818) 500-3900 during West Coast business hours and speak to Mark Krynsky. Canadian and foreign orders available, call for pricing. The Computer Network is at 1605 West Glenoaks in Glendale, California, 91201. Mark assures me that he can do 5-7 day delivery. Be sure to tell him Z*NET sent you!

The ST SOFTWARE SHELF

Compiled by Nor Scavok

(Note: Most descriptions are derived from that supplied by the uploader, as I have not tested all of these. Filenames are as presented on GENie and may vary somewhat on other services. Many of these files are SHAREWARE, and users should consult the documentation for restrictions on use without payment.)

FORMDOIT.LARC - (Program and documentation Copyright 1991, Gribnif Software) FormDolt alters the way that dialog boxes and alerts behave in most programs. Run it once as a program or from your AUTO folder to: use the keyboard to select buttons in dialogs and alerts, position the edit cursor anywhere in a field with the mouse, use shift-left-arrow to move to the start of an editable field, enter any ASCII character from a table or by number, re-define the icons used in alert boxes. Outstanding and useful in almost every program! NOTE: Present version interferes with some programs, including CodeHead's HOTWIRE.

LUCIFER2.ARC - Formerly a demo, here's the full 6-face LUCIFER font family. LUCIFER is a competently done Lucida clone, compatible with Calamus Outline Art. Good for authoritarian body type and a good "serious" headline face as well.

TIEMPO-2.ARC - Complete updated TIEMPO Times clone 4-face font family. NOT a demo font - it's all here!

WK1-TAX.ARC - 1990 Federal Income tax forms converted to Lotus .WK1 format, with semi-automated data entry and online help. Includes worksheets, long from 1040, and schedules A and B.

OPUS-TAX.ARC - 1990 Federal Income Tax forms converted to OPUS format... same as the Lotus, above.

STRABBLE.LZH - This is a shareware version of Scrabble for the ST called STrabble. Written by Warwick Allison from Australia, it has a 45,000 word editable dictionary. It allows for up to 6 human or computer players, or a combination of both. Both color (medium resolution) and monochrome are supported. **REQUIRES 1 MEGABYTE OF RAM.** Highly recommended.



STEBIG.ARC - Copyright 1991, Atari Corporation. STEBIG.PRГ is a 1280 x 960 x 16 color virtual screen driver for the Atari STE series of computers. You may find it useful, you may find that it is simply an interesting demo of the STE's hardware scrolling. (This is not an officially supported Atari product)

STWARCUB.ARC - This is the opening theme from StarWars, sequenced utilizing Tiger Cub from Dr.L, an Atari 1040 ST, and voiced specifically for the Roland MT-32. The .CUB file is for use with TigerCub, the .MID file is for use with a wide variety of sequencers, such as Cakewalk for the IBM.

USCRIPT.LARC (PS) - Backup or rename your current USCRIPT.PS file and put this one in its place. It allows Apple PostScript files to usually print correctly in cases where the original did not. The file also displays a memory status report

during printing that can help you debug memory-related problems.

CAL44.ARC - This is version 4.4 of Calendar accessory, a 30k program that keeps track of special events by position in the month as well as date. It supports 24 events/ day and will also keep track of one time events, deleting them as the event passes or asking if you wish to delete this event. It is also a perpetual calendar.

ABBREVT.R.LZH - Abbreviator ST allows you to type an abbreviation instead of words or phrases, and have the abbreviation expand automatically. The ONLY limitation on this DEMO version is a 9 abbreviation limit; Load and Save are intact. Don't waste any more time typing long phrases over and over.

TCBTRCKR.ARC - TCB Tracker is the newest music production program for the ST. It allows even novices to use their ST to create songs. Programmers can use the sounds/songs in their own programs. Full STe support is built-in. This demo includes a tutorial on how to create your own song and it also has a demo song. All the sound is digital.

DC-FKEYS.ARC - DC Functions Keys (F-KEYS) lets you assign 49 function keys text macros of 40 characters each. A "text" data file is used for easy user editing. For example, use 'A10=WARTHOG' for (ALTERNATE)+F10 to emulate the typing of 'WARTHOG' when you press that key. Another FREEWARE release from Double Click Software.

CALLTIME.LZH - This is a simple program that calls the Naval Observatory in Washington D.C. and sets your system time. It is shareware and it was written by Bob Areddy. It was written in Assempro.

UNERASE.ARC - This accessory allows you to restore deleted files or directories as long as you have not done any updates which would have modified the directory or FAT. You must know the original complete filename.

NOROACH.LZH - NOROACH allows you to set the length of time TOS will wait before trying to boot from the hard disk on a Mega STE or TT. For ST, Mega, and STE owners, it also has the useful side effect of guarding against floppy disk viruses.

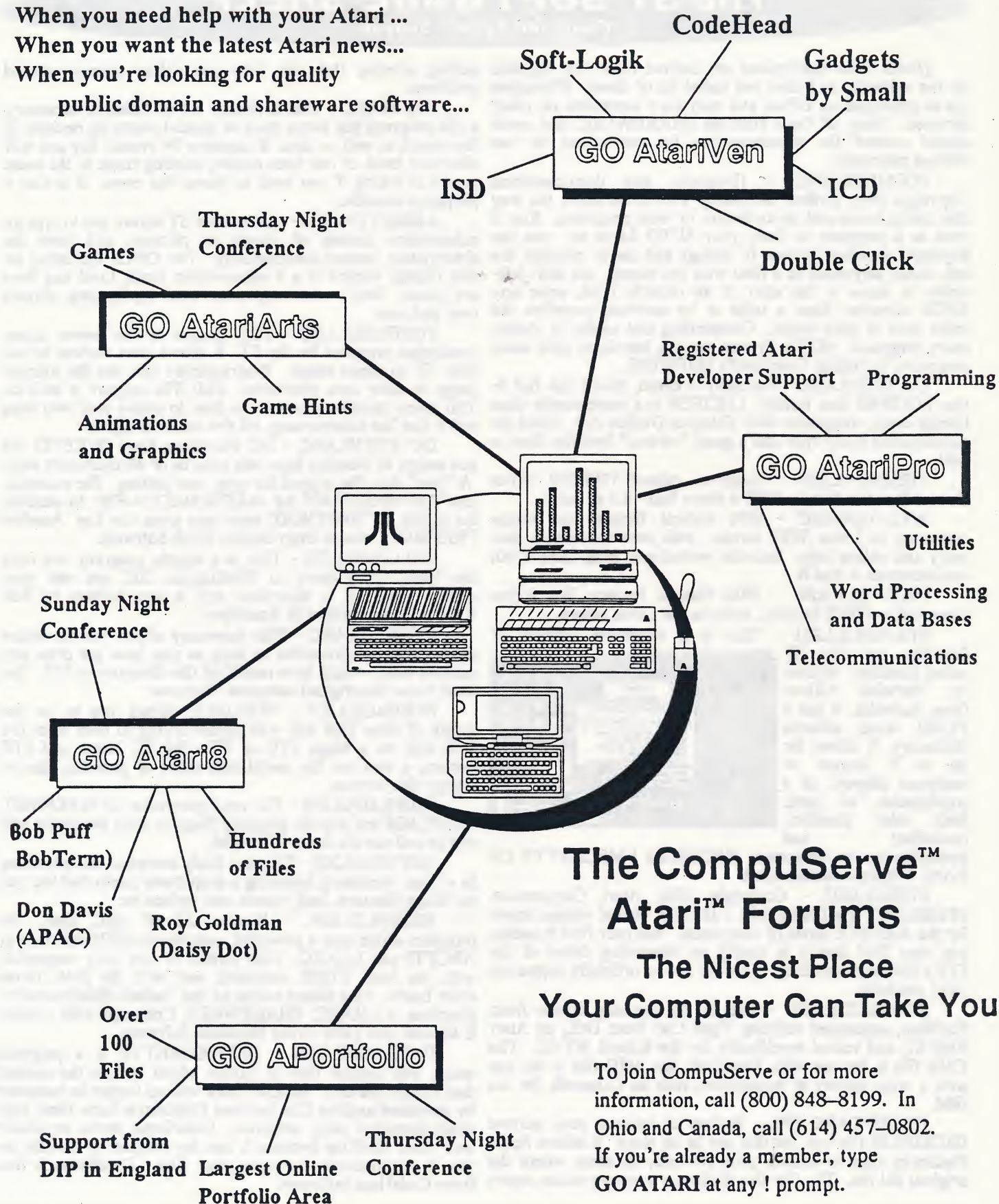
PRGFLAGS.LZH - The next generation of MAKEFAST, PRGFLAGS lets you set program flags so your programs will run in and use the faster TT RAM.

NOTEPAD.LZH - This is a fairly complete text processor in a Desk Accessory, featuring a drop down menu that lets you do things like save, load, search and replace etc.

ARCSHL23.ARC - Version 2.3 of ARC Shell, the program which adds a powerful, easy-to-use GEM interface to ARCTTP and LHARC. This version is now fully compatible with the Atari TT030 computer, and with the ISAC hi-res color board. Also allows access to the 'Include Subdirectories' functions of LHARC. SHAREWARE, Copyright 1991 Charles F Johnson and Little Green Footballs Software.

DATENAME.LZH - DATENAME.TTP is a program which will rename files to names which include the current date minus one day. Aladdin users will no longer be bothered by oversized archive files because DateName turns them into easily-managed daily archives. DateName works especially well from HotWire because it can be chained to Aladdin so that it automatically manages your files. DateName is free from CodeHead Software.

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